

Passaic County Jail
Main Street
Paterson, Passaic County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-381

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS
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Passaic County Jail
Main Street
Paterson, Passaic County, New Jersey

Owner: Board of Chosen Freeholders of Passaic County

Date of Erection: Original part 1837-38; main
section 1854-55

Architect: Original part a Mr. Kay, later section
a Mr. Nash of Bridgeport

Builder: J. J. Stagg, Isaac Van Blarcom, mason work;
Cornelius G. Garrison, carpentry, plumbing
and roofing; on the later unit the mason
work was done by day under the supervision
of the committee with the same carpenter as
in the first section

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brownstone
and brick

Interior walls - plaster in
sheriff's residence and jail
offices, the ceilings are
plastered except in the cells
the walls of which are brick

Floors of the sheriff's resi-
dence and jail offices wood;
cell floors bluestone slabs

Roof - pediment

Historical Data:

The jail group consists of a main building fronting on Main Street with its south part containing the sheriff's residence, a rear west wing, and a rear building. There are other buildings, but they are all of later date. The rear building is said to be the original, but there is also a possibility that the west wing of the main building was the original. The original part was built in 1837-38. Two drafts were received, one from a Mr. Kay and another from a Mr. Thorne. Mr. Kay's draft was adopted. The mason work was given to J. J. Stagg and Isaac Van Blarcom for a bid of five thousand eight hundred and forty-five dollars. The carpentry, plumbing, and slating work was estimated at sixteen hundred and forty-five dollars by Cornelius G. Garrison, and the iron work was given to Cornelius G. Post at eleven cents a pound.

In 1853 it was decided to build a prison and workhouse; five plans were put before the board. A Mr. Nash of Bridgeport was selected as the architect. Some changes were made by the committee, and he was instructed to draw the plans providing for a building not to cost more than twenty thousand dollars. In the new building the iron work was awarded to Messrs. Holden and Drew. The carpentry work went to C. G. Garrison, and the mason work was to be done by the day under the supervision of the committee on public buildings.

Bibliography:

Material obtained from the printed transcript of the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in the Law Library of the Passaic County Court House by Harry T. Stephens, Passaic County Supervisor

Nelle E. Post
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

reviewed July 1938 JPD